



July 01, 2019

Ms. Diane Porter, Chairwoman
Jefferson County Board of Education

Chairwoman Porter:

I am writing to inform you of my resignation as District Four representative on the Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBE) effective at noon on 01 July 2019. My years of service on the Jefferson County Board of Education are ones that I look fondly upon. To serve my community is a profound honor. Our board and superintendent team continue to accomplish much in a spirit of collaboration, deep mutual respect, and a core vision united in making Jefferson County Public Schools an exceptional school system with our students' best interests at heart. Our team's commitment to collaboration with community partners, the construction of new facilities, racial equity, and career/technical education have re-invigorated a system that will bear fruit in a stronger and more prosperous Louisville. I applaud our board and Superintendent Dr. Marty Pollio in this tremendous progress. I do not take my decision to resign lightly, as I view our role as stewards of public education as being of the utmost importance.

I have elected to pursue an opportunity that will allow me to serve not only Jefferson County, Kentucky, but the remainder of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's 119 counties, and our nation at-large. I will serve as a Policy Principal at Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) in the areas of early childhood, K – 12 education, and federal legislation. As a non-profit and non-partisan organization dedicated to "making Kentucky the best place in the nation to be a kid," the opportunity to achieve positive outcomes for all of Kentucky's children is too great to pass up. I view my new role as a continuation of my service to public education, and to the children of the commonwealth more generally.

While this decision is difficult, I trust in Dr. Pollio and our board team to continue the good work we have accomplished together throughout my term in office. I will forever be grateful to my constituents. It is my sincere belief that my time in office pushed education in District Four and throughout the city forward in an impactful way. I trust in the Jefferson County Board of Education's ability to fill my vacancy with an outstanding appointee of their choosing.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin M. Gies".

Benjamin M. Gies
Jefferson County Board of Education
District Four